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TWO CHAPTERS

ON THE

Mediæval Guilds of England.

BY

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN, PH. D.

ADJ. PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY,

SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,

COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

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PREFACE.

This essay was originally written in 1882-3 as a doctor's dissertation in the School of Political Science, Columbia College. It is here reprinted in its original form, with a few additions and alterations, mainly of a verbal nature. This explains the lack of all reference to publications of the past four years. The monograph is only a condensed fragment of a much larger work, already partly in manuscript, which is to treat of the social history of England to the present time. The press of other occupations has compelled me to lay it aside for several years, but at some future day I trust to continue my investigations in England itself, and to complete the task that has been marked out.

In the original essay much assistance was derived from two German works. In the chapter on the craft-guilds attention should be called to Ochenchowski's essay on "England's Wirthschaftliche Entwickelung" (1879), with many of whose conclusions this essay is in harmony. As to the merchant-guild, especial acknowledgment is due to the scholarly thesis of Dr. Gross, "Gilda Mercatoria" (1883), which treats the subject far more elaborately than has been attempted in this monograph. Although the chapter had been practically completed before the appearance of Dr. Gross's thesis, he was nevertheless the first in the field, and deserves all the credit for setting the subject in its proper light. As we differ, however, in a few points I have thought it permissible to publish the chapter.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE, NEW YORK,
November, 1887.